

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Treatment Committee
October 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM
Middletown Police Department

- I. In attendance were: Dan Armstrong, Melissa Kearney, Shamla McLaurin, Terry Pepper, Brendan O'Neill, Blanche Creech (via teleconference) and Claire DeMatteis (via teleconference). DVCC Staff: Natasha Smith, Moe Monagle and Aimee String
- II. Meeting Minutes from July 19, 2017 were approved as presented.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Treatment Program Reporting for DVCC Annual Report: Natasha Smith
 - i. Natasha requested information from the committee about what other additional things could we capture for the Annual Report that would not create a hardship for the programs.
 - ii. The committee discussed the possibility of capturing how many sessions of the Treatment Program that individuals are attending. Shamla stated that it would be difficult to count up 0-5, 6-10, 11+ but perhaps we could choose some midpoint and count that. The programs are using older computer systems which mean that tracking data like that is being counted manually. Dan echoed Shamla's thoughts and said that kind of data could be captured but it is time consuming so we would need to have a clear picture of what the value of that information would be.
 1. Aimee stated that she thought that data would be helpful in doing future evaluations of the treatment programs.
 - iii. It was suggested that perhaps we should also capture information about clients who are also being referred to victim services.
 - iv. Brendon noted that according the BIP Evaluation about 50-60% are completing programs and wondered how that compares nationally. Aimee stated that the International Batterer's Conference last year, it was stated that approximately 55% of individuals complete programs nationwide.
 - v. If anyone has any additional thoughts, please contact Natasha Smith at Natasha.Smith@state.de.us.
 - b. Emerge Training Wrap-Up
 - i. The Emerge Training was held on September 21st and 22nd at Delaware Technical and Community College in Dover, DE. It was two full days of training. The first day was specifically for judges, commissioners and other court staff members. The second day had a track for Treatment Program Facilitators. This allowed facilitators to earn some of the training hours required by the Delaware Domestic Violence Intervention Standards.

Those training hours are sometimes difficult for facilitators to obtain due to costs/location. It's important for facilitators to get ongoing training due to the changing needs of those they serve.

- ii. Evaluations from the training were very positive. Most people in attendance found the training to be very insightful and helpful.
- iii. Aimee reported that DelTech was great to work with and very accommodating.
- iv. It was noted that over the past two years the DVCC has been able to provide some of the necessary facilitator training hours. In 2016 we brought Lisa Laurence to DE with the assistance of grant money through the Batterer's Intervention Evaluation. This year we were very fortunate to be offered the Emerge training at no cost. It's important that our committee continues to look for ways and funding to do trainings in the future.

c. New Business

i. Evaluation of Treatment Programs: Review of Recommendations

1. Recommendation 1: "Focus on strengthening communication among the providers, courts, probation and parole, and the DVCC. This is the most consistent recommendation to emerge from this evaluation. To this end, develop and implement a comprehensive strategy that:
 - Provides timely follow up to judges and commissioners about the status and participation of each person they have referred to a provider."
 - a. In NCC Treatment Programs are going to P&P tomorrow to exchange information. Kent/Sussex will do the same next month. It's been some time since this has been done but it could be done with more frequency.
 - b. It was noted that there is very little communication with the courts if P&P is not involved. There used to be more communication from the courts but it is very rare now.
 - i. Family Court is currently looking at reinstating a Coordinator to help bridge this gap. Treatment Providers found this to be very encouraging.
 - c. P&P does get status reports/certificate of completion. Certificates of completion are sent to the Victim Advocacy Program. Completion is also entered into DELJIS.
 - d. The committee would like to get feedback from the Judiciary as to how they would like to receive communication about completion or lack thereof.
 - i. A written MOU would be helpful for the programs.
 - "Disseminates information annually on key indicators of program participation and success for each provider."
 - e. This information is available in the Annual Report. We can do a better job of highlighting and distributing this information.

- f. Natasha suggested that if providers have “success stories” that they would like to include in the annual report she could include them. Something that shows a change in attitude or individual growth.
 - “Creates an online link that offers resources about the Batterer’s Intervention Program and includes evaluation results, presentations, and other easy to access information about the program.”
 - g. We can do this is by enhancing the DVCC’s website and making the current information easier to find.
 - h. It would be helpful to e-mail the evaluation to all judges and commissioners and to remind them that it is also available on the DVCC’s website.
 - “Includes a plan for providing judges and commissioners with information about the program model through presentations, short fact sheets and other easy tools.”
 - i. Programs mentioned that they all have a document with quick facts about the program. Programs agreed to e-mail the documents to Aimee (aimee.string@state.de.us). Perhaps we can compile these into one laminated reference sheet for judges/commissioners. Information should include length of program, cost of program (maximum costs only with information about the sliding scale based on income), location(s) of groups, phone number, days of the week that group are held, information about bus lines/vouchers (if appropriate).
 - ii. Discussion about how Probation and Parole can assist with treatment program participation
 - 1. Shamla wondered how we could work with probation officers to emphasize the importance of completing programs. Most referrals come through probation.
 - 2. Treatment providers agree that sometimes it take several weeks for an individual to start the program. Sometimes they finish the probation period prior to completing the Intervention Program. Many times an offender quits attending the programs as soon as they are done with probation. Programs agreed that it would be very helpful if Officers encouraged individuals to attend programs as early as possible.
 - 3. Melissa asked providers to reach out to individual Officers or herself if there is ever a problem with a particular individual.
 - 4. NCC Treatment Programs have a scheduled meeting with P&P to share information. Kent/Sussex Programs are planning to meet soon.
- d. Agency Reports

- i. Wear Purple Day in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month will take place on October 19th.
 - ii. The DVCC will hold a strategic planning day in November. Key partners will be invited to participate in the day. More information will be coming soon.
- e. Public Comment
 - i. None
- f. Next Meeting: 2018 Meetings have been booked. We will meet at the Middletown Police Department from 10:00-12:00 on the following dates:
 - i. Wednesday, January 10th
 - ii. Wednesday, April 11th
 - iii. Wednesday, July 11th
 - iv. Wednesday, October 10th